(b) and (c) A complete version of the draft legislation has been prepared and sent to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs and placed on the website for comments from the public at large. In the meanwhile, PM has constituted a Small Group on the Bill comprising of Human Resource Development Minister, Finance Minister, Dy. Chairman Planning Commission and Chairman of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, to examine it's legal, constitutional and financial implications.

Function of CABE

1258. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view that Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has become more functional to facilitate wider consultation between Government and civil society the number of the meetings of the Board held during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether any decision has been taken by CABE for setting up of a National Text Book Council; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Since the expiry of extended period of the last CABE on 31.3.1994, the CABE was not in existence till July, 2004, when it was reconstituted in 2004 *vide* resolution dated 6th July, 2004. Since then, the CABE has met four times to discuss issues concerning the field of Education.

(b) and (c) In its meeting held on 14th & 15th July, 2005, CABE discussed the reports of seven CABE Committees, including the one on 'Regulatory Mechanisms for Textbooks and Parallel Text Books taught in the schools outside the Government System'. One of the recommendations of this committee was "that there was a need for an independent institutional structure to exercise vigilance on textbooks published by both government organizations as well as by others which could be called National Textbook Council." The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government and a final view has not been taken so far.